

# HAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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<http://hand.sdcounties.org/commissioner>  
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July 6, 2023 - The Hand County Board of County Commissioners held a regular monthly meeting in the commission chambers of the Hand County Courthouse. The meeting began when Chairman Luke Wernsmann called the **Planning and Zoning meeting** to order at 1:00 P.M. with commissioners Greg Palmer, Daniel Jensen, Jim Eschenbaum and Jim Jones present. The meeting was broadcast live via YouTube with a link on the county's Facebook page.

The Planning and Zoning agenda contained a link to the **June building permits** and a plat for the **Grass Lake Grazing Association Addition**. By consensus the plat was advanced to the county commission portion of the meeting.

**Zoning Director Jaime Russell** suggested that the board **move to holding quarterly meetings** unless there was some action that required action sooner. The quarterly meetings would occur In January, April, July, October each year unless changed by the board. Special meetings would be announced when needed. There was no opposition to Russell's proposal.

It was moved by Jones & Eschenbaum, passed, to adjourn as the Planning & Zoning Commission [1:07 P.M.]

Chairman Wernsmann called the **Board of County Commissioners to order** at 1:07 P.M. with commissioners Palmer, Jensen, Eschenbaum and Jones also present. The consent agenda was reviewed and passed upon motion of Eschenbaum & Jones. The **consent agenda** contained the receipt of the revenue and expenditure budgets through June 30, 2023 and the cash fund balance report through June 30, 2023. Also received was the June payroll ledger report, the Registrar's financial report for May 2023 and the library board's minutes and financial report for May 2023.

The items approved as part of the consent agenda included the approval of claims presented to the board for payment and approval of the minutes from the June 22, 2023 special meeting. The minutes of the June 6, 2023 regular meeting were removed from approval prior to the meeting.

**4-H Director Ann Price** spoke to the commission and notified them that Achievement Days had been moved from the 1st of August to the 31st of July and ending on August 1. Price also informed the commission that the old kitchen area in one of the Quonset buildings is being removed. Price also said that summer programming and preparations for the state fair are underway.

On behalf of the **Library Board**, Auditor DeBoer presented their request to have **Andrea Fiala re-appointed to the board of trustees**. It was moved by Jones & Eschenbaum, passed by roll call vote, to approve Fiala's appointment. Auditor DeBoer will prepare a certificate of appointment for the chairman to sign.

**Sheriff Shane Croeni** informed the commission that deputy sheriff **Brandon Fisher** had reached his three-year anniversary. As such, Fisher was allowed to advance on the deputy sheriff pay scale which resulted in a \$1.00 pay increase. The resulting wage will be \$26.44 per hour. The request to advance Fisher was approved upon motion of Jones & Eschenbaum and passed. This is the scale's last step. Croeni also reported that **K9 Ringo** was injured while training in Mitchell. The injury required veterinarian treatment and some time out of service.

**Treasurer Kim Fanning** revisited the request of American Bank and Trust to change the manner in which county deposits are guaranteed by the bank. The new change would make the deposit subject to the protections of the FDIC instead of investments. The request made by Fanning and ABT was approved upon motion of Jones & Eschenbaum and passed.

The **appointment of Jim Jones and Jim Eschenbaum** to be commissioner representatives on the South Dakota **Coalition of Counties** was formally approved upon motion of Jensen & Palmer and passed by roll-call vote. Commissioner Eschenbaum abstained.

Auditor Doug DeBoer presented the **results of the Opt-Out election for Secondary Roads** to the commission now acting as the canvassing board. The ballot box was opened and the poll book and voter list was reviewed. The ballot box contained one ballot which matched the poll book and the voter registry list of eligible voters. The ballot indicated the one vote was "NO" and the precinct board's tally sheet agreed. The commission, upon motion of Palmer & Jones, voted unanimously to accept the findings of the election staff and signed the canvassing report.

**Janitor Will Page** informed the board that the **elevator is substantially finished**. The elevator was load tested and is waiting on some finishing touches. Page expects to hear that the elevator can be used by the public very soon. Page also informed the commission that the **boiler inspection and repair** process is underway. Page expected the repairs to cost \$5,000 but was pleased when the invoice indicated only \$2,000.

**Auditor Doug DeBoer** spoke to the commission about the use of a **capital accumulation fund** to purchase vehicles in all budgets except the Road and Bridge Fund. The Road and Bridge Fund already contains a line item for the purchase of equipment. It is budgeted for \$100,000 annually. It is this budget item that was used to purchase two used semi-trucks from Federal Property. DeBoer suggested that rather than budgeting for a capital accumulation fund, that a line item in the commission or commissioner contingency budget could be funded at \$100,000 and that all of the budgets (excluding Road and Bridge) could enter into a rotation for the purchase of replacement vehicles and larger equipment (mowers, boilers, UTVs and such). The only item in the General Fund that would not fit into the scheme would be a replacement dozer for the rubble site. The suggestion was approved for further exploration upon motion of Jones & Jensen and passed.

DeBoer briefed the commission on the **budget modifications** approved previously and that another hearing should be scheduled to cover cost overruns in the election budget, the defense of Abused or Neglected children budget, and to transfer \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge fund. Additionally, funds need to be moved from the Rural Access Infrastructure Fund to the expenditure budget to cover the costs of structures purchased for the township grants. The commission approved holding a **budget hearing on August 1**. The motion was made by Palmer & Jensen and passed.

DeBoer also spoke about the network security proposals from ConnectingPoint / Ultra Inc.. DeBoer said that he believes purchasing the new backup device is the right direction to start and adding the other courthouse offices to the domain server would allow for uniform backup of important data.

The commissioners took up the discussion of the Secondary Road System which is now, solely, occupied by the congressional township known as Harrison. The previous opt out attempt was \$250,000. Auditor DeBoer had prepared a map of the roadways impacted in the secondary road system. DeBoer had prepared Resolution 2023-14, an Opt-Out Resolution for secondary roads in the amount of \$17,375. The commission held some discussion and had the auditor change the draft resolution to a non-draft version. Once changed, it was moved by Palmer & Jones, passed upon roll-call vote.

The text of the resolution is as follows: **RESOLUTION 2023-14 [-] ATTENTION TAXPAYERS: NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE OF \$17,375 [-] RESOLUTION FOR OPT OUT [-] THE GOVERNING BOARD OF HAND COUNTY** acting as the governing board for the Secondary Road System, comprised of the congressional area of Harrison Township (116-70), do state that the above said board is unable to operate under the tax limitation measure currently in statute. **We therefore OPT OUT of such tax limitation in the amount of \$17,375 starting with calendar year 2023 taxes payable in the calendar year 2034.**

This opt out will be for 10 years, which will be through taxes payable in the calendar year 2034. This action has been taken by the board and approved by at least a two-thirds vote of the board.

This decision may be referred to a vote of the people upon a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the district and filed with the governing body within twenty days of the first publication of this decision.

Unless this action is referred to a vote of the people and reversed by such vote, this resolution authorizes the county auditor to spread an excess levy to raise tax dollars in the above stated amount.

Signed: /s/: Luke Wernsmann Board Chairman, /s/: Greg Palmer Board Member, /s/: Daniel Jensen Board Member, /s/: Jim Eschenbaum Board Member, /s/: Jim Jones Board Member. Dated July 6, 2023.

The commission agreed that this resolution should also be published in the Faulkton Record.

**Highway Superintendent Jeff Hargens** informed the commission that he and Logan Bell had reached an agreement on the **205th Street haul road** being used to construct the Sweetland Wind Farm. Based on complaints, the speed limit on the road had been reduced to an advisory speed of 40 mph. This may become a regulatory speed limit once a resolution is passed. Increased maintenance will be conducted as needed to increase safety. Dust has been a huge problem with the dry conditions.

The commission revisited the Grass Lake Grazing Association Addition plat. The plat was approved upon motion of Jones & Jensen and passed by roll-call vote.

There was a break in agenda items while the group waited for Risty Benefits to address the commission on health insurance. The representatives from Dice Financial showed up early so chairman Wernsmann called the group to order. Jim Jones had left the meeting.

**Mike LeBrun** presented the commissioners with a proposal for renewal of the Avera plans currently in effect. It was noted that of the three plans offered, one had shown a sharp premium increase, the second plan was more stable and the HSA plan was least impacted with the increase. DICE explained that a request had been made to Avera to equalize or levelized the increases across the three plans so that the increase to the plans would be brought down to under 10%. DICE noted that the current renewal is still lower than insurance costs were in 2017 so considerable savings had been enjoyed during that six-year stint.

**Roger Risty** with Risty Benefits presented a proposal to the board to switch to a Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan (MERP) where the county purchases one policy for the employees while the employees get the programming of a lower deductible plan. The difference between the employee's program / plan and the plan purchased by the county (at a lower rate) is used to make reimbursement of the medical expenses. The money saved is kept by a third-party administrator and can only be used to buy down the deductible expenses.

The commission took no action on the proposals while the presenters were present.

At 5:06 it was moved by Eschenbaum & Jensen, passed, to enter into executive session with Auditor Doug DeBoer to discuss a care of the poor application.

At 5:24 it was moved by Palmer & Jensen, passed, to exit the executive session. It was then moved by Palmer and Jensen, passed, to void check number 114816 which had been written to pay an indigent claim.

The commission revisited the insurance proposals. It was asked that each of the two presenters be contacted and asked to submit proposals which would be alternatives to the one they presented. IE: Dice would be asked if they could submit a proposal on Medical Expense Reimbursement plans and Risty would be asked to submit a traditional insurance plan.

At 5:26 PM it was moved by Palmer & Eschenbaum, passed to adjourn the meeting.

[The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2023]

The following claims and tax distributions were approved during the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS:** DOMAIN LISTINGS-ANNUAL LISTING-288.00, QUADIENT LEASING-POSTAGE METER LEASE-317.22: 605.22. **ELECTIONS:** POLO FIRE DISTRICT-POLLING PLACE RENT-75.00, KEN SCHAEFER-ELECTION WORKER-165.00 & MILEAGE-2.55, TAMMIE SCHAEFERS-ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT-252.00 & MILEAGE-26.01: 520.56. **JUDICIAL SYSTEM:** GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-1.02, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-1.02, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-13.26, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-30.60, SDACC-CATASTROPHIC LEGAL EXPENSE-593.00, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-12.24, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-2.04, GRAND JUROR-PANEL MEMBER-50.00 & MILEAGE-1.02: 1004.20. **AUDITOR:** A & B BUSINESS-COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-39.24, CONNECTING POINT-SUPPORT-62.50, GOOD SHRED, LLC-SHREDDING SERVICE-43.75, OFFICE PEEPS-OFFICE SUPPLIES-9.56: 155.05. **TREASURER:** CONNECTING POINT-SUPPORT-125.00, HAND CO TITLE COMPANY-REPORTS FOR TAX DEEDS-1300.00: 1425.00. **STATES ATTORNEY:** ANSON LAW-RENT-357.50, SUPPLIES-333.33 & UTILITIES-416.66, SD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-ALCOHOL BLOOD TEST-40.00, THOMSON REUTERS-LAW BOOKS-278.99: 1426.48. **JANITOR:** ARAMARK-SUPPLIES-315.22, BOB'S DISPOSAL-GARBAGE DISPOSAL-120.00, HUGHES ELECTRIC-REPAIRS - SHERIFF'S OFFICE-1012.23, MIDWEST BOILER-REPAIR TO BOILERS-2005.11, MIDWEST FIRE & SAFETY-FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTIONS-167.00, MILLER ACE-SUPPLIES-86.25, CITY OF MILLER-UTILITIES-950.58: 4656.39. **ASSESSOR:** A & B BUSINESS-COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-36.61, OFFICE PEEPS-OFFICE SUPPLIES-18.45: 55.06. **REGISTRAR:** A & B BUSINESS-COPIER MAINTENANCE CONT (2)-47.59, OFFICE PEEPS-OFFICE SUPPLIES-3.50: 51.09. **SHERIFF:** AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINES-OFFICE SUPPLIES-12.48, CLAIR BONEBRIGHT-MAP FRAME-75.00, CREEKSIDE VETERINARY CLINIC-URGENT CARE - K9-376.71, JON DUNLAP-SUPPLIES-6.99, IDI-SEARCHES COVERAGE-157.75, MILLER BOOSTER CLUB-MHS ATHLETIC PROGRAM-200.00, OFFICE PEEPS-SUPPLIES-17.31, QUALIFICATION TARGETS-TARGETS-84.06, STOBBS SALES-REPAIRS-364.24, TONY'S REPAIR-VEHICLE MAINTENANCE-71.50 & VEHICLE MAINTENANCE-161.10, VISA-MAINTENANCE-15.25, SUPPLIES-101.12, SUPPLIES-213.89, K9 DOG FOOD-90.02, CELL PHONES-246.00: 2193.42. **JAIL:** BEADLE COUNTY SHERIFF-PRISONER CARE-475.00 & REDWOOD TOXICOLOGY LAB-DRUG CONFIRMATIONS/SHIPPING-130.94: 605.94. **CORONER:** TIFFANY PAPE-HOFER-ADDITIONAL HOURS-802.40 & SUPPLIES-167.76, SANFORD HEALTH - AUTOPSY-2100.00, SANFORD HEALTH PATHOLOGY CLINI DRUG PANEL/BLOOD TESTING-274.00: 3344.16. **CARE OF POOR:** RECK FUNERAL HOME-DISPOSITION-681.00. **COUNTY NURSE:** HAND CO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INC. MONTHLY RENT-618.00. **MENTAL HEALTH:** CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE-MONTHLY SUPPORT (2)-360.00. **LIBRARY:** A & B BUSINESS-COPIER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT-67.17, MIKE ANGLIN-LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS-24.00, BOB'S DISPOSAL-GARBAGE DISPOSAL-21.00, CENTRAL PROGRAMS-BOOKS-1034.35, MIKE DONLIN-LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS-36.00, ANDREA FIALA-LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS-36.00, INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES-BOOKS-243.17, JIM & JAKE'S SPRINKLER SYSTEMS SPRINKLER MAINTENANCE-52.37, GLORIA KECK-LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS-36.00, CITY OF MILLER-UTILITIES-375.81, MARIANNE PETERKA-LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS-36.00: 1961.87. **WEED BOARD:** AT & T-CELL PHONE-45.31, GEMPLER'S-SUPPLIES-

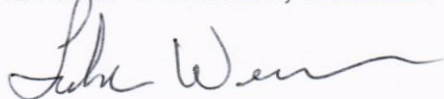
115.02, MILLER ACE-SUPPLIES-162.79, CITY OF MILLER-UTILITIES-377.26, NAPA CENTRAL MN-SUPPLIES-142.53, TWIN VALLEY TIRE-MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS-304.98, VISA-SUPPLIES-184.99: 1332.88. **ROAD AND BRIDGE:** A-OX WELDING SUPPLY-SUPPLIES-530.76, ARAMARK-SUPPLIES-950.11, BUTLER MACHINERY-SUPPLIES-244.51, CAPITAL I INDUSTRIES-SUPPLIES-1215.09, FLINT HILLS RESOURCES-ROAD OIL-178028.40, MIDWEST FIRE & SAFETY-FIRE EXTINGUISHER INSPECTIONS-1200.50, MILLER ACE-SUPPLIES-14.98, CITY OF MILLER-UTILITIES-289.28, MORRIS-ADD SAND-38448.96, NAPA CENTRAL MN-SUPPLIES-1916.79, OAKLEY FARM & RANCH SUPPLY-SUPPLIES-40.79, CNH INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNTS-SUPPLIES-294.22, RESEL OIL-DIESEL FUEL-18112.50, SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION-SHARE OF BRIDGE INSPECTIONS-5688.20, SD DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION-SHARE OF BRIDGE INSPECTIONS-252.41, SD PUBLIC ASSURANCE ALLIANCE-INSURANCE ON TRACTOR-253.29, SD STATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT-4 PLOWS-1200.00, THEE GLASS DOKTOR-WINDSHIELD REPAIRS-944.40, TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT-REPAIRS-4088.45, TWIN VALLEY TIRE-MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS-1177.14: 254890.78. **E-911:** CITY OF HURON-APRIL 2023 911 SERVICE: 2765.07. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** DAKOTA ELECTRONICS-SUPPLIES-122.70, VERIZON WIRELESS-CELL PHONE-46.80, VISA-SUPPLIES-340.44 & APPLE STORAGE-1.05: 510.99. **RURAL ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE:** TRUENORTH STEEL-SUPPLIES-52905.76. **LEPC:** MILLER ACE-SUPPLIES-159.96, OAKLEY FARM & RANCH-SUPPLIES-116.33: 276.29. **LAW LIBRARY:** THOMSON REUTERS-LAW BOOKS-527.99. TOTAL CHECKS WRITTEN THIS DATE: 332873.20.

Monthly payroll by function per Office or Department beginning with regular pay, then overtime pay if applicable, and resulting total pay: Commissioners: \$3,694.45, Auditor: \$7,628.14, Treasurer: \$7,628.14, States Attorney: \$7,917.33, Custodial: \$4,265.39, Director of Equalization: \$12,657.81, Register of Deeds: \$7,628.14, Veteran Services: \$781.77, Sheriff: \$18,927.14 + \$466.12 = \$19,393.26, E-911: \$212.02, Emergency Management: \$3,745.80, Highway: 48,904.42 + 138.94 = \$49,043.36, Rubble Site: \$4,058.90, Library: \$4,021.44, 4-H: \$3,431.16, Weed & Pest: \$6,924.94. Total Payroll: \$142,426.99 + \$605.06 = \$143,032.05

Monthly reconciliation between the Auditor & Treasurer per SDCL 7-10-3 (includes funds held for other governmental entities): Cash on Hand = \$2,011.60, Checks in Possession less than 3 days = \$10,846.37, Checks in Possession more than 3 days = \$0.00, Cash Items = \$0.00, Petty Cash = \$300.00, Reconciled Demand Deposits-American Bank & Trust = \$8,701.61, Reconciled Demand Deposits-Quoin Financial Bank = \$748,411.72, Time Deposits – American Bank & Trust = \$2,108,510.22, Time Deposits – Quoin Financial Bank = \$1,377,833.99, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA-Federal Funds) See Deposits = \$0.00, Library Checking = \$38,462.87, Library Certificates of Deposit = \$7,551.00, Library Stocks = \$12,400.00: Total = \$4,315,029.38.

The forgoing text reflects the approved minutes of the commission.

/s/: Luke Wernsmann, Chairman



Attest: /s/: Doug DeBoer, Auditor

